



marrugeku's *Burning Daylight*

Australian Tour
28 Oct – 28 Nov 2009

"We are really exploring the intergenerational ghosts that haunt the young people in Broome now." Rachael Swain, Director

marrugeku launches the national tour of its explosive yet haunting dance theatre work, *Burning Daylight* from its origins, the West Australian town of Broome on October 28, 2009.

It's Karaoke night, Broome style, where country meets hip hop meets Japanese love song. A lone cowboy blows into town, stirring its ghosts for a long and wild night, as past and present dance it out on the street.

The physicality and raw energy of performers is combined with tenderness and beauty. Pumping beats and rhymes create a vibrant contemporary sound live on stage that contrast with gentle guitar strums and melodies evoking outback campfires.

This spectacular high energy production incorporates old and new forms to conjure an image of today's Broome – the traces of its past as wild frontier town still real, but also mythologised in glossy tourist brochures. Like the rest of the world, a place where young people live out complex identities spanning traditional cultures and globalised Youtubed everything.

Whips crack, geishas perform ceremony, pearl fisherman take to the sea. Karaoke singers croon and a hip hop MC raps, while memories flicker on screen of their grandparents' generation's experiences: White Australia policy deportations, and laws against inter-racial marriage.

Burning Daylight's Director, Rachael Swain, was inspired by the depiction of Broome at the turn of the 19th to 20th century as an "Asian Wild West". The production features "karaoke noodle western videos" by Warwick Thornton, the award winning Director of *Samson and Delilah*, music by MC Dazastah of Perth based hip hop crew *Downsyde*, performances by actor Trevor Jamieson of *Ngapartji Ngapartji* and Sermsah Bin Saad or Suri, a recent finalist in *So You Think You Can Dance*.

Forging exciting new ground in contemporary indigenous and intercultural dance theatre in Australia, *Burning Daylight* was co-choreographed by Belgian based West African Serge Aime Coulibalay (former member of *Les Ballets C de la B*) and indigenous choreographer Dalisa Pigram from Broome. Marrugeku's previous works, *Mimi* (Perth Festival 1996, Dreaming Festival 1997) and *Crying Baby* (Perth, Sydney and Darwin Festivals 2000-02) were acclaimed by audiences around the country and internationally.

Two years after touring to the prestigious Zurcher Theater Spektakel in Switzerland, *Burning Daylight* will have its final development back home in Broome, the first project supported by the WA Department of Culture and the Arts' new Major Production Fund. *Burning Daylight* is toured by Performing Lines, to the Mobile States circuit of contemporary performance venues in Perth, Sydney, Melbourne and Hobart, with support from the Australia Council and Playing Australia.

Creative Team: Director: Rachael Swain | Co-Choreographers: Serge Aime Coulibaly & Dalisa Pigram | Designer: Joey Ruigrok van der Werven | Cinematographer: Warwick Thornton | Dramaturg: David Pledger | Costume Designer: Stephen Curtis | Lighting Designer: Geoff Cobham | Musical Director: Matthew Fargher | songs by : Amanda Brown

Performers: Trevor Jamieson, Dalisa Pigram, Kathy Cogill, Owen Maher, Sermsah Bin Saad, Antonia Djiagween & Yumi Umiumare Musicians: Dazastah, Lorrae Coffin & Justin Gray

2009 Australian Tour Dates Goolari Outdoor Venue, **Broome** 28 – 31 Oct | PICA, **Perth** 4 – 7 Nov | CarriageWorks, **Sydney** 11 – 14 Nov | Arts House, **Melbourne** 18 – 21 Nov | Princes Wharf, **Hobart** 25 – 28 Nov

ALL NATIONAL MEDIA ENQUIRIES: Janine Collins – janinecollinsau@yahoo.com.au 0403 274 390

Burning Daylight is toured by Performing Lines for Mobile States: a national touring initiative supported by the Australia Council, the Australian Government's arts funding and advisory body, and through the national performing arts touring program, Playing Australia. *Burning Daylight* and Marrugeku were assisted by the Western Australian Government through the Department of Culture and the Arts, the Australia Council's New Australian Stories Initiative and its Dance, Theatre, Music, New Media and CCD Boards; The Sidney Myer Fund; the Australian Film Commission; The Kimberley Regional Development Scheme; and Country Arts WA.





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ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Director—Rachael Swain (Sydney NSW)

Rachael is a founder and the Director of Marrugeku and Artistic Director of Stalker. Her work is a unique mix of theatre, circus, video, and dance, incorporating large structures in a variety of outdoor and alternative locations. She conceived, directed and co-choreographed *Mimi* and *Crying Baby* for Marrugeku and *Blood Vessel* and *Incognita* and the current work in development *Shanghai Lady Killer* for Stalker. She was commissioned by the European Capital of Culture in Liverpool to create an urban dance project with creative youth communities in the Port Cities of Liverpool (UK) and Marseilles (Fr) (06/07). All her works have toured extensively nationally and internationally.

Co-Choreographer, Performer, Cultural Liaison—Dalisa Pigram (Broome WA)

Dalisa comes from the Yawuru people of the Kimberley, she is a founding member of Marrugeku and a member of the Marrugeku Steering Committee. She has toured both locally and internationally with an array of theatre, dance and performance companies including performing in *Bran Nue Dae* and *Corrugation Road* (Jimmy Chi). Dalisa is a core performer with Marrugeku touring to Europe, The Philippines, New Caledonia, Latin America and all over Australia with both *Mimi* and *Crying Baby*. Dalisa has also toured with Stalker's *Blood Vessel* and was a co-devisor and performer in *Incognita*. Dalisa is a Yawuru language teacher and is the current Kimberley NAIDOC Performing Artist of the Year (08).

Co-Choreographer—Serge Amié Coulibaly (Burkina Faso/Belgium)

Serge Aimé is the founder and Artistic Director of Faso Danse Theatre, based in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. Serge Aimé was co-deviser and dancer in *Wolf* by Alain Platel 2002 – 2004 and *Tempus Fugit* by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui 2004 - 2005, both for Les Ballets C de la B. Serge's productions *Et Demain 04*, (commissioned by the European Cultural Capital Festival, Lille) *A Benguer*, 06 and *Babamba 08* have been co produced by Les Ballets C de la B and are a fusion of contemporary European and West African dance forms and aesthetics. Each production was created in Ouagadougou has toured extensively in Europe.

Musician/Composer/MC—Dazastah (Perth, WA)

Dazastah has toured extensively for the last few years with his act, Downsyde. He is also a producer of many Hip Hop releases including *Drapht*, *Layla*, *Hunter*, *Downsyde*, *Pegz*, *Hilltop Hoods* and *Matty B*. Dazastah has also won two WAMI's for best electronic act (2004 and 2005) and best live act (2005), as well as a Dance Music Award for best debut artist (2004).

Musician/Composer—Lorrae Coffin (Broome, WA)

Lorrae is an Nyapali woman from the western desert area of the Pilbara, she is a founding member of Marrugeku and a member of the Marrugeku Steering Committee. She has been involved with many projects from workshops to theatre to studio and live sound as a composer, performer and teacher. She was NAIDOC Kimberley Performing Artist of the Year in 2004. She has toured nationally with Black Swan's *Corrugation Road* and internationally with Marrugeku.

Musician/Composer—Justin Gray (Broome, WA)

Justin is writer, composer and lead singer for Broome rock band Kross Kulcha, twice winners of The Next Big Thing regional finals. They have performed for the ABC's Message Stick and numerous Indigenous music festivals. Justin programs and presents radio programmes with Broome's Goolarri Media.

Performer/Devisor—Trevor Jamieson (Kalgoorlie, WA)

Trevor is a member of the Wongi and Pitjantjatjara people of Western Australia. He has forged a career in film and on stage performing in a variety of productions nationwide. He conceived and co-wrote *Career Highlights of the Mamu*, performed with Marrugeku in *Crying Baby* and has appeared in *Kulli Foot*, *Plain Song* by David Whittton, Black Swan Theatre, *King for this Place* by Neil Murrey Deck Chair Theatre, *Kings in Grass Castles*, *My Bed Your Bed* by Erica Glynn (Dendy Award Best Short Film) and *Corrugation Road* written by Jimmy Chi. During the last 3 years Trevor has been developing and co-writing his own story *Ngapartji Ngapartji* with Big hArt which toured to Melbourne, Perth, The Dreaming Festival, Adelaide and Sydney Festivals.



Performer/Devisor—Kathy Cogill (Sydney, NSW)

Kathy is a performer/ collaborator with a Diploma in Dance (Victorian College of the Arts, 1984) and a Degree in Acting (NIDA, 2001) She has performed as dancer and actor with companies and artists such as Dance Exchange, Dance Works, Human Veins, One Extra Company, Force Majeure, Sydney Theatre Company, Urban Theatre Projects, Julieanne Long, Hans van den Broeck, and Australian Dance Theatre. In Europe she worked and toured extensively with Les Ballets C. de la B. (La Tristeza Complice and La Sortie), Companie Vicente Saez (UADI), Robert Wilson, Diez y Diez Dansa, Compania de Danca de Lisboa, Companie Julie Bogard & Random Scream.

Performer/Devisor—Yumi Umiumare (Melbourne, VIC)

Born in Hyogo, Japan Yumi trained in classical ballet and modern dance. She was a member of DaiRakudakan (the celebrated Japanese Butoh company), and performed at the Melbourne Festival in 1991. Currently her focus is on solo and collaborative dance projects. Her productions, *Fleeting Moments* and *Tokyo DasSHOKU Girl* received Green Room Awards. Her work with Tony Yap, *How could you even begin to understand?* toured to Brisbane, Sydney, Tokyo and Kuala Lumpur. In 2000, Yumi devised *INORI-in-visible* with Melbourne visual artist, Anthony Pelchen, for the 5th memorial of the Hanshin earthquake. This work was presented in Traces 2003—a post-Butoh festival at Dansescenen, in Copenhagen.

Performer/Devisor—Sermsah Bin Saad (Suri) (Broome, WA)

Suri was born in South Hedland Western Australia. He has trained at the Aboriginal Dance Development Unit (ADDU) in Perth and the National Aboriginal Island Skills Development Association (NAISDA). Performance credits include: *Own Worst Enemy*, Barking Gecko (2002); national tour *Corrugation Road* Black Swan Theatre (1998). He performed in 2 short films for Metro Television (1997), has choreographed for the Modern Dreamtime Dancers (Broome) and performed Playback Theatre in remote Aboriginal Communities for Heatworks (Broome) 1996. Most recently Suri was a finalist in the *So You Think You Can Dance* television show.

Performer/Devisor—Owen Maher (Broome, WA)

Owen is from the Bardi people of One Arm Point Aboriginal Community (north of Broome). He is a founding member of Modern Dreamtime Dancers Broome, has been performing and choreographing with them since 1993 and is now Head Choreographer. Highlights of his career include being part of a dance exchange program at Jazzart theatre in Capetown, South Africa in 1998 and co-choreographing for the *Mary G Show* (SBS TV) in 2000. He was also featured as an Aboriginal role model in the book *Indigenous Australia—Standing Strong*, 1998.

Antonia Djiagween—Performer/Devisor (Broome, WA)

Born in Broome, Toto joined Marrugeku for the process of *Burning Daylight* as a work experience secondment. She was mentored throughout the process by Dalisa Pigram and Serge Coulibaly. Toto has since joined the production as a touring company member. Toto has danced with Modern Dreamtime Dancers in Broome for 7 years, including touring to Korea in 2002.

Cinematographer—Warwick Thornton (Alice Springs, NT)

Warwick is from the Katjet people of Central Australia. He completed a Bachelor of Arts specializing in Cinematography at AFTRS and then worked as cinematographer on the Australian feature film *Radiance*. Video Installations include: *Terrizan—My Country*, *Crying Baby—Marrugeku*, *Yeperenye—Federation Festival*. Documentaries: *Willigens Fitzroy*, *Buried Country*, *Dugong Hunters—Nganampa Anwerkerne*, *Photographic Memory*, *Bungarun Orchestra*, *Kangaroo Hunters* and *Marn Grook*. Short Films: *Saturday Night—Sunday Morning*, *My Bed*, *Your Bed* and *Promise*. Warwick wrote, directed and was cinematographer for *Payback* and *Mimi* both commissioned by SBS and the AFI. He won the Golden Bear Award at the 2005 Berlin Film Festival for his film *Green Bush*.

Musical Director—Matthew Fargher (Hobart, Tasmania)

Matthew is a founding member of Marrugeku and a member of the Marrugeku Steering Committee. He has composed original music for Circus Oz, Choral Sea 1996 and 2000, ATYP, Theatre of the Deaf, Marrugeku's *Mimi* and *Crying Baby* and various films and animation projects. Currently a youth and community music specialist in Tasmania he works with young musicians producing original work for audio and video.

Costume Designer—Stephen Curtis (Sydney, NSW)

Stephen has worked extensively as a designer for drama, film, opera, dance and exhibition. His theatre credits include *Lulu* (Best Design Green Room Awards 03), *The Turn of the Screw* (Opera Australia); *The Ring Cycle* (State Opera of South Australia); *La Boheme*, *Carmen* (Oz Opera); *La Boheme* (Opera Queensland). His film credits include *Looking for Alibrandi*, *Twelfth Night*, *Breathing Underwater*, *Bedevil*. Stephen designed the major exhibition *Olympic Antiquities: 1000 Years of the Olympic Games* for the Powerhouse Museum.



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Marrugeku

www.marrugeku.com.au

Marrugeku is at the leading edge of Australian contemporary intercultural performance. Founded in 1994, the company is currently under the artistic direction of Rachael Swain and Dalisa Pigram.

Drawing from the lives of people and communities living in remote in North West Australia, Marrugeku Theatre Company share the memories and traditions of Indigenous culture through contemporary dance-theatre. Place and identity, migration and misplacement, and the constant shifting world of cultural identities and globalised fantasies constantly inform the direction of their productions.

Their ambitious large-scale outdoor works are created through long-term collaborations with a multicultural cast of professional and community based artists. The company utilises flexible contemporary dance languages, relevant traditional and contemporary music, physical theatre, circus, installation and video art. Each visually spectacular production is designed to tour regional and remote communities as well as major Australian and international arts festivals.

Marrugeku's previous works have followed their world premiere seasons in WA (*Mimi* 1996, *Crying Baby* 2001, Perth Festival commissions), with significant touring lives. They've been presented by festivals as well as community events in carefully chosen cultural and environmental sites in Broome, Perth, Kunbarlanjana, Maningrida, Elcho Island, Yirrkala, Brisbane, Uluru, Sydney, Canberra, The Philippines, The Netherlands, New Caledonia, Belgium, Ireland, Germany, Switzerland and Brazil.

Mobile States: Touring Contemporary Performance, Australia

Mobile States is a consortium of Australia's major independent contemporary performance presenters: Performance Space, Sydney; Arts House, Melbourne; Brisbane Powerhouse; Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts; Salamanca Arts Centre, Hobart; Adelaide Festival Centre; and tour producer Performing Lines. It aims to give national exposure to artists working in performance, dance and hybrid arts, and to provide opportunities for audiences across the country to experience the best contemporary Australian performance work. Mobile States is a national touring initiative of the Australia Council, the Australian Government's arts funding and advisory body.

Works previously toured by Mobile States include: Jenny Kemp's *Still Angela* (2004); Chamber Made's *Phobia* (2005); de Quincey Company's *Nerve 9* (2005); Tanja Liedtke's *Twelfth Floor* (2006), Version 1.0's *Wages of Spin* (2006), *Back to Back's Small Metal Objects* (2006/7), Lucy Guerin's *Love Me* (2007), Branch Nebula's *Paradise City* (2008), Dancenorth's *Underground* (2008) and Splintergroup's *roadkill* and *lawn* (2009).

Performing Lines

www.performinglines.org.au

Performing Lines develops, produces and tours new Australian performance nationally and internationally — across genres including physical theatre, circus, dance, indigenous and intercultural arts, music theatre, hybrid work, and text-based theatre.

At a time when artists and presenters are exploring new ways of working, many are looking to the independent producer model pioneered by Performing Lines – and to our 25 years of experience and contacts.

Performing Lines has created opportunities for many major Australian artists over the past 20 years, including William Yang, Kate Champion, Nigel Jamieson, Paul Grabowsky, Meryl Tankard, Wesley Enoch, Jack Davis, Jenny Kemp, Legs on the Wall, and Sydney Front. More recently, Performing Lines has produced or toured some of Australia's most exciting new practitioners, including Tanja Liedtke, Branch Nebula, version 1.0, erth, Splintergroup, and Back to Back Theatre.

2009 Australian Tour Dates:

Development	12 – 25 Oct	in Broome	
Broome	28 – 31 Oct	Goolarri Outdoor Venue	Performing Lines & Goolarri Media
Perth	4 – 7 Nov	Russell Square, Northbridge	Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts & Northbridge Festival
Sydney	11 – 14 Nov	Bay 20, Carriageworks	Performance Space & Carriageworks
Melbourne	18 – 21 Nov	Meat Market	Arts House
Hobart	25 – 28 Nov	Princes Wharf	Salamanca Arts Centre & Tasmania Performs